

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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INFO AMCONSUL BARRANQUILLA
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USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS BOGOTA 11950

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, ETEL, CO
SUBJ: SATELLITE TELECONFERENCING FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

REF: STATE 293375

THE FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL:
A. HOST GOVERNMENT IS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS AND THIS INTEREST HAS BEEN REPORTED EXTENSIVELY DURING THE PAST YEAR. VIDEO TELECONFERENCING HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH GOVERNMENT OR INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE COMMUNICATIONS FIELD TO DATE BUT LIKELIHOOD OF ACCEPTANCE IS HIGH.

B. THE TECHNICAL AREAS IN WHICH PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY IS HIGHEST AND NATIONAL INTEREST GREATEST ARE: 1. ENERGY PRODUCTION AND RESOURCES; 2. TELECOMMUNICATIONS; 3. ROAD AND HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION; 4. METAL WORKING; 5. POLLUTION CONTROL; 6. AGRICULTURE; 7. PLASTICS.

C. LANGUAGE BARRIERS WOULD PROBABLY BE GREATEST IN AGRICULTURE, PLASTICS, AND METALWORKING DUE TO THE SMALL AVERAGE SIZE
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OF FIRMS IN THESE FIELDS. IN THE OTHER AREAS THE BARRIERS WOULD BE LOWER SINCE MOST DECISION MAKERS, SCIENTISTS, AND ENGINEERS WOULD HAVE AT LEAST A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH. IN ORDER TO GET THE MOST OUT OF SUCH A CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO HAVE SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION AT EITHER THE POINT OF TRANSMISSION OR RECEPTION.
D. THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION IN TECHNICAL

AREAS WITH THE US ARE IN CIVIL AVIATION, PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION, AND COAL AND NICKEL MINING. TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN CIVIL AVIATION INVOLVES MOSTLY ASSISTANCE TO THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES BY THE FAA. THERE ARE NO FAA REPS IN COLOMBIA. MOST OF THE LARGE U.S. OIL COMPANIES HAVE FAIRLY EXTENSIVE OPERATIONS IN COLOMBIA AND EXXON IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH ITS COLOMBIAN PARTNERS (CARBOCOL) IN A COAL PROJECT IN THE GUAJIRA REGION. HANNA MINING CO. IS ALSO WORKING CLOSELY WITH EMPRESA COLOMBIANA DE MINAS ON THE CERROMATOSO NICKEL PROJECT. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE NUMBERS OF US EXPERTS IN THESE AREAS IN COLOMBIA.

E. IN DISCUSSING TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER THERE ARE NO TECHNICAL TOPICS THAT COULD PROVE TO BE UNCOMFORTABLY CONTROVERSIAL. COLOR TELEVISION BROADCASTING HAS BEEN RECENTLY ELIMINATED FROM SHORT TERM GOC PLANNING AND WOULD PROBABLY BE OF LEAST INTEREST.

F. TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY PRODUCTION, OR POLLUTION CONTROL APPEAR TO BE MOST DESIRABLE SINCE THEY ARE OF GREAT INTEREST TO BOTH COLOMBIAN AND US GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY.

G. THE CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE SCHEDULED FOR ANY TIME DURING THE EASTER SEASON OR FROM DEC 15 TO JAN 15 NOR SHOULD IT BE SCHEDULED FOR ANY NATIONAL HOLIDAY. LIST OF HOLIDAY AVAILABLE FROM USDOC.

H. LIST OF TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES SCHEDULED FOR COLOMBIA IN NEXT TWO YEARS IS UNAVAILABLE AT THIS TIME. EMBASSY IS PREPARING LIST AND WILL FORWARD BY SEPTTEL. USG UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL PARTICIPATE IN BOGOTA INTERNATIONAL FAIR JULY 15-30, 1978. PAVILION WILL BE ORGANIZED BY EMBASSY AROUND GENERAL THEME OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. USIS IS PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE WITH EXHIBIT ON THIS THEME ALONG WITH SEMINAR. TELECONFERENCE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE EXTREMELY COMPLIMENTARY TO US PAVILION.

I. DEPENDING ON THE LOCAL FACILITIES TO BE UTILIZED, APPROVAL WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM ANY ONE OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES: MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE RADIO Y TELEVISION (INRAVISION), EMPRESA NACIONAL DE TELECOMUNICACIONES (TELECOM), AND/OR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

J. THERE IS A SATELLITE GROUND STATION MAINTAINED BY TELECOM NOT FAR FROM BOGOTA. INRAVISION IS ABLE TO RECEIVE SATELLITE TRANSMISSIONS AND THEIR PRINCIPAL STUDIOS ARE LOCATED IN BOGOTA.

K. EMBASSY FEELS THAT GOC WOULD BE VERY RECEPTIVE TO SUCH A PROGRAM BUT THAT LIKELIHOOD OF FUNDING IS VERY UNCERTAIN.

L. EMBASSY THINKS THAT PROPOSED VIDEO TELECONFERENCE WOULD DEFINITELY SERVE USG INTERESTS IN COLOMBIA.

COMMENT: EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO WERE PLANNING A MEDICAL CONFERENCE UTILIZING A VA PROGRAM AND THE TELECONFERENCING TECHNIQUE IN CARACAS. A TELECONFERENCE OF THIS TYPE WOULD PROBABLY ENJOY

STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE COLOMBIAN MEDICAL PROFESSION SINCE
MANY DOCTORS HAVE STUDIED AND PRACTICED IN THE U.S.
AT ONE TIME. LANGUAGE BARRIERS WOULD BE MINIMUM AND THE SUPPORT
OF COLOMBIAN MEDICAL PROFESSION MIGHT LEAD TO INCREASED
POSSIBILITY OF LOCAL FUNDING.
FOR AMEMBASSY CARACAS: AMEMBASSY BOGOTA REQUESTS COMMENTS
ON PROJECT MENTIONED ABOVE.
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